

TRAINING TIMES

Vol. 1 Nr. 23

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels and Vilseck

November 23, 2005



Honoring our Veterans

See pages 4 + 6

News in brief

POSH training a must

All civilian personnel and Soldiers that supervise civilian employees must complete civilian supervisory/non-supervisory Prevention of Sexual Harassment on-line refresher training for FY 2006. All new employees that have not taken the initial classroom training must do so prior to participating in this on-line course. To schedule initial POSH training, contact Josie Hammond at 475-7215 or josie.hammond@us.army.mil.

Holiday party for all

USAG Grafenwoehr Holiday Party
Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Vilseck's Dagestein Castle. Euro 10 for adults, Euro 5 for kids for buffet luncheon. Visit by Santa Claus 12:30 p.m.; gifts for the kids.
For info contact Public Affairs at DSN 475-1600.

Catch comic in Vilseck

Comedian Rich Little is appearing at at the Vilseck post theater Dec. 9, 1:30 p.m. Rich Little studied the voices of many stars like James Stewart, Johnny Carson, Don Rickles, Dean Martin, Truman Capote and George Burns. Dubbed "the best impressionist in the world."

With supervisor's ok, employees are encouraged to attend as part of work day.

CFC-O ends Dec. 2

The Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas is part of the largest workplace giving campaign in the world. U.S. Military and Federal Employees Make a World of Difference. If you have any questions, or if you need pledge cards, contact Christine Nunez at DSN 475-8432 or CIV 09641-83-8432; Graf bldg, 244, 2nd floor, Room 239.

Couples communication course

Vilseck Chapel, Dec. 9: Couples learn and practice how to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and express their needs and desires. One time, all day (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.) class includes lunch and refreshments. Child care vouchers for CDC/FCC registered children.
Class is free. DSN 476-3276 or CIV 09662-83-3276 to register.

Graf gate 9 Closure

On Nov. 24, the gate will be closed 2-4 p.m. due to construction work. Use gate 6 in the interim.

Pre-reintegration Fair

For Vilseck & Graf communities.
Nov. 30: Vilseck Rose Barracks Langenbruck Center, noon-6 p.m.
Dec. 7: Grafenwoehr Field House, noon-6 p.m.

For more information, contact ACS at DSN 476-2650 or CIV 09662-83-2650

Christmas tree sale

Boy Scout Troop 261 will have fresh cut Christmas trees available for the holidays. The tree lot will be set up adjacent to the Graf bowling alley and be open the following days and hours: Nov. 26-27, December 3-4 and 10-11. Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Sundays noon-3 p.m.

Get your Christmas tree and support the Boy Scouts at the same time.

Dragons return home to Hohenfels

Executed Afghan mission with excellence

by Alice Adler

Training Times

The mood in Hohenfels was jubilant late on Nov. 11 and early the next day as bus-after-bus of Soldiers from D Company, 1-4 Infantry, also known as the "Dragons," returned home from their deployment to Afghanistan.

D Company left Germany in late July and arrived in Afghanistan in early August to work as an Election Support Force during the country's elections that were scheduled for mid-September. In a unique situation, D Company worked with a truly international group of Soldiers from all around the world.

While in Afghanistan, the Company fell under the tactical control of a Romanian battalion commander and an Italian brigade commander as part of the Kabul Multinational Brigade. They also worked with a number of Soldiers from other countries, including Great Britain, Germany, France and Norway.

"We, as a U.S. company, brought a unique capability to the Kabul Multinational Brigade," said Maj. Rob Dixon, the officer in charge of the team. Their skills in riot and crowd control and non-lethal weapons were considered a vital reserve capability for the security of the Afghani elections.

Their main mission was to provide security around the Kabul province ballot-counting center. Because this building was instrumental in the elections process and was co-located with

the Joint Multinational Brigade's Media Center, it was considered a high-threat target.

The Company provided security for the complex and the areas around it for the elections from Sep. 18 through Oct. 26 as the ballot-counting process went on.

In the weeks before and after their mission at the counting center, the company conducted multiple patrols to deter opposition forces from attacking the area. They also responded to potential Improvised Explosive Devices and assisted Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams with marking and disposing of unexploded ordnance.

Overall, the company performed over 500 patrols during less than 100 days of operations. Over three dozen Soldiers from D Company were awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Two Soldiers earned the Combat Action Badge, and one was awarded the Combat Medic Badge. In addition, two Soldiers earned ARCOMs with valor, and one Soldier, who received a facial laceration during an ambush, was awarded a Purple Heart.

The company's mission in Afghanistan was one of security, not offensive operations, and that switch was something the Soldiers had to get used to.

"It created a different approach to how we had to look at our mission," said Dixon. "But the Soldiers did incredibly well. They performed every mission we asked of them with excellent results."



Staff Sgt. Michael Warner, Viper Team

One of many special moments for Soldiers and family members of D Co.

Germany-based POVs to get host nation tags

Registration offices to issue new replacement plates

by Spc. Matthis Chiroux

USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Beginning in late December, U.S. forces service members and civilians stationed in Germany will start exchanging their U.S. forces vehicle license plates for standard German plates.

The changeover, designed to allow Americans stationed in Germany to present a lower profile while driving, is the result of a recent agreement with the German government. The agreement allows U.S. forces to use German plates on their vehicles without paying German road tax or undergoing stricter German vehicle inspections, said Thomas K. Lorenzini, the U.S. Army, Europe vehicle registrar.

During 2006 and 2007, as vehicle registrations expire, registration offices will issue the new German plates to replace U.S. forces plates. While eventually the changeover will become

mandatory for all U.S. forces personnel, people wishing to keep their old plates are authorized one additional 12-month registration, said Lorenzini.

Unlike the old U.S. forces plates, the new German plates are the property of the U.S. government and will be issued only for the duration of an individual's tour in Germany. When a vehicle owner is reassigned outside of Germany, he or she must return the German plates to the local vehicle registration office. Vehicles will be shipped with U.S. forces plates.

Because the new plates will bear a "D" instead of "USA" designator, the rear-mounted, oval decal required for vehicles traveling outside of Germany must now also bear the letter "D."

American vehicles displaying German plates may come under stricter scrutiny by German police, so it will be important for drivers to obey German laws regarding window tinting and loud

exhaust pipes, Lorenzini said.

"In the end, this will be a significant advantage for the majority of U.S. forces living in Germany," he said. "This will allow for people to blend in with any German on the road. Now, if you're driving an F-150 with rebel flags in the windows and a 'Don't Mess with Texas' sticker on the bumper, this changeover will offer not as much for you, but for most people, this will be a useful conversion."

Germany is the last country in Europe to change license plate styles for U.S. service members and civilians, Lorenzini said, adding that in both Italy and Belgium, the military has received positive feedback from drivers about the new license plates.

For more information on the plate conversion, contact your local vehicle registration office.

USAREUR Legion of Merit Conference

Retired allied leaders – now counselors – informed about current issues

by Pfc. Mathis Chiroux

USAREUR Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany – U.S. Army, Europe invited more than 60 Legion of Merit recipients from France and Germany to Patrick Henry Village to discuss the current and future status of USAREUR during the 25th annual LOM Conference Nov. 8.

Because of the ever-evolving status of the Army in Europe, the command likes to bring these international LOM recipients, many of them general officers, to Heidelberg every year to keep them abreast of what's happening in USAREUR, said Maj. Gen. David P. Valcourt, acting USAREUR deputy commanding general and chief of staff.

"Changes have never been so significant," said Valcourt. "We've provided an opportunity for the senior leadership of our allied partners to come together here ... to talk about the issues."

For several hours, they discussed topics such as transformation and rebasing, the future of the Joint Multinational Training Center in Grafenwoehr and the future of USAREUR's role in NATO.

USAREUR shared this information with Legion of Merit recipients for very specific rea-

sons, said Valcourt.

"Those that have obtained the Legion of Merit have made significant contributions. These people are a part of history, but they maintain their connections," he said.

Valcourt said he hopes conference participants will take the knowledge they garnered from the conference and put it to use in their own governments and militaries.

"It's not just updating them; it's rearming them so they can be better informed as they influence their own countries," he said.

Though most of the conference participants are retired, they still influence public and government opinion, Valcourt said.

"Many people approach us about our opinions," said Gen. Leopold Chalupa, a retired German Soldier and LOM recipient. He said he and his fellow conference participants are, "often approached by politicians about what needs to be done."

"I've been associating with [USAREUR] for more than 40 years," said Gen. Wolfgang Altenburg, another retired German Soldier and LOM recipient. "[This conference] gives us good information."

Valcourt cited the valuable information dis-

tributed at the conference as the reason attendance was so high this year.

"They didn't come because it was convenient, they came because they realized this is important," he said. "This is an important event that needs to be sustained. It's hard to put a price tag on the benefits that will come from this conference."



Photo by USAREUR Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. David P. Valcourt

Q&A

We asked shoppers in the Commissary: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?



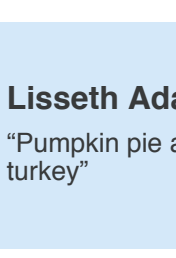
Chris Bridges
"Sausage dressing."



Alec Hayes
"Turkey – especially the legs."



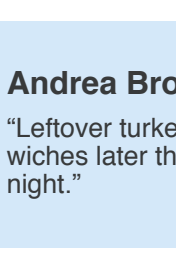
Elizabeth Peake
"My mother's mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie."



Lisseth Adams
"Pumpkin pie and turkey"



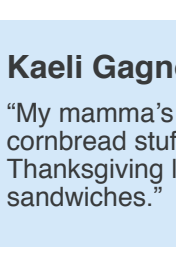
Julie Curtis
"Brussel Sprouts"



Andrea Brodany
"Leftover turkey sandwiches later that night."



Megan Nauman
"Turkey!"



Kaeli Gagnon
"My mamma's cornbread stuffing and Thanksgiving leftover sandwiches."



Anthony Colantuono
"Red pork chili and ham."

Interviews and photos by Alice Adler

'Thoughts while moving around'

Housing policy, accidents, and volunteers

by Lt. Col. Brian Boyle
USAG Grafenwoehr Commander

A big "Hoo-Aah" to Hohenfels for winning the High School Small School Football Championship. Defeating Ansbach twice in one year and ending their undefeated reign is tremendous, and all of us congratulate you on your victory. With football over and the days getting shorter there is a great deal to talk about so let's get right into it.

Housing Policy. As we prepare for the arrival of a large number of people in our communities in the coming years, I have assessed the application of our Garrison housing policy. Much to my surprise, I have found a great number of personnel who have PCS'd from here and left their families in our community homes. **Frankly, I just don't understand this.** In these tough challenging, multiple-deployment times for our military, I share the Army and USAREUR belief that the best way to handle these challenges is keeping families together. We expend great effort immediately upon our Soldiers' return to reintegrate them with their families. We do that for a purpose. Families, husband and wife together, are the best way to handle family issues with children, budgets and the entire reintegration process. In short, families will continue long after our military careers. So it is in our best interest to ensure they are functioning teams.

During this housing policy evaluation, I have also reviewed military blotters, and in several cases the military spouses worked great dis-

tances from where they lived. I'm sure that the lack of the consistent family team, living and working in close proximity, contributed to the incidents. It is also unclear to me why people would subject themselves to daily drives of up to an hour between work and home.

Adequate housing exists at assigned duty spaces and I just can't sign up to the risk Soldiers put themselves through with these long drives – particularly with long duty hours, meaning late travel during the upcoming winter months.

Finally I have to look at the coming population bulge that will arrive starting as early as summer next year. I have to have homes to put our families in – which will be more difficult with the number of families who stayed in our homes after their military sponsor departed. So regardless of previous implementation of housing policies, I am the final arbitrator of exceptions to our housing policy. While I will look at each case independently, my 'going in' position is that families will stay together with adequate housing at the location the military spouse is as-



Col. Boyle

signed to. This policy also applies to single Soldiers occupying our homes. We need the space for upcoming population growth.

Accidents. On Nov. 10 many Soldiers volunteered their time to speak to the local elementary schools about being a veteran. However an accident on one of our roads (299) caused a long delay and interrupted many planned briefings. While thankfully there were only minor injuries, a review of the accident reinforces what we usually find. Slick roads and people traveling too close to the car in front of them contributed to the accident. In both lanes, cars that had slowed down to help were hit from behind by other cars. As the winter approaches, I'd ask all people to reevaluate their driving habits. **SLOW DOWN.** Don't get so close to the car in front of you. Being late is far better than being in an accident.

Volunteers. In the last issue I spoke about the need for volunteers for our programs – focusing on child/youth events. This is another "call out" to help provide these programs for our young ones. The sign-up for winter sports programs is now complete. If Grafenwoehr is any indication, 80 children and five coaches means some of our children will not get the opportunity to participate in quality youth sports this winter. I'd ask you to re-look at your schedules and consider helping our children in these worthy programs.

In closing, this is my first winter in Bavaria. I have been told that it will likely be cold and wet. Please re-look at your travel plans, and be safe.

'There is much to be grateful for ...'

by Russell Hall
IMA-Europe Director

As the leaves change to their fall colors here in Europe, it strikes me that this year's Thanksgiving holiday season really carries two themes: appreciation of life's blessings and our ability to adapt to new situations.

In the fall of 1621, English Pilgrim's not far from Plymouth Rock received an incredibly valuable gift. They were taught by Native Americans how to adapt to a new environment that was exciting, challenging and perilous.

Using their newfound skills to hunt, fish, plant crops and build shelters enabled the Mayflower colonists to survive that and future winters; a dramatic improvement over the previous year in which almost half their population was lost.

If we think of the Mayflower colony as an "organization" or "enterprise," we could say that they radically shifted their "business practices." That transformation enabled them to move from perceived scarcity to effective use of the resources that literally surrounded them.

Change didn't come easily for the colonists. Their social structure and ways of doing business were centuries old. Adaptation, however, was the better alternative to starvation. Ultimately, new skills, better organization, interde-

pendence and smart use of resources set the course for their fledgling country's unlimited future.

While today's challenges are more complex than a New England winter, 21st century Americans also live in perilous times. We are blessed with technology, initiative and a shared vision that our founders could not have imagined. And yet, a global war against terror and the devastation of natural disasters at home present challenges no less daunting or historic.

Today, the Installation Management Agency is a leader in America's transformation of its military. Our job is to leverage human and physical resources to feed, shelter and provide training facilities for the Soldiers who protect our nation. Providing the best possible support to Soldiers' families is an equal part of that mission.

As we enter the winter of 2005, we should be proud and thankful for the successes IMA-EURO has achieved this year.

Our effort to standardize the organization and services of our garrisons has gained real momentum. Last month's re-designation of our Area Support Groups and Base Support Battalions was more than symbolic. It represents a new mindset, a whole new approach to how we deliver services and raise expectations.

Meeting the goals of Army installation transformation isn't easy. Like other federal organi-

zations, we cannot assume that budgets or staffing will increase. Financial constraints are simply a fact of life that will be with us for the foreseeable future.

In the coming year, IMA will aggressively compete for resources. But ultimately, success will be gauged by our ability to achieve greater efficiencies with existing assets. Using our better metrics of analysis, innovation, skill ... and persistence, we will continue to improve our support for Soldiers, civilians and family members.

As busy as we are, it's important to keep perspective on our challenges and accomplishments. We need to thank those around us – at home and at work; we need to fully appreciate each other's daily contributions; and we need to embrace and encourage the fresh new ideas that foster positive change.

More than 380 years ago, the wisdom and bravery of transformation meant the difference between success and failure for a small group of English colonists. Today, we continue to benefit from their legacy. We listen, learn, adapt, and improve our ability to care for each other.

As I look out my window here in Heidelberg, the air is crisp, the fall leaves are beautiful and I hear the happy voices of children at our daycare center. There is much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving season.

HISSES AND HURRAHS

Hurrah to Michelle Binney and Tonia Dearman, our two most recent graduates of Army Family Team Building Level I. Your effort to learn more about your military community and your military family through attending Army Family Team Building Level I is commendable and will set you up for success in the Army Family. It was great to have you as part of the class. Congratulations. See at the next level.

From the AFTB Volunteers
USAG Grafenwoehr

Hurrah to Vilseck and Grafenwoehr Outdoor Recreation. Both facilities are always very accommodating and provide the community with excellent and affordable trips. ODR of both Graf and Vilseck offer everything from scuba diving to skiing to even daytrips to the most popular destinations in Europe.

The staff at both facilities are extraordinary! Thank you for providing such excellent services and opportunities to the community.

Jay and Jenna Shell
USAG Hohenfels

Kathy Jordan has your news covered in Vilseck

USAG Grafenwoehr Public Affairs

Kathy Jordan has worked for the Training Times newspaper for the past year, and has been involved with the military community for 18 years.

At the newspaper she works with other writers in the community to insure that news is delivered promptly to the readers. She enjoys working with the community and trying to make sure that stories related to things happening in the area do not go unnoticed.

"There are a lot of great stories out there in the community and I enjoy covering them," she said.

She has volunteered her time and efforts in schools and community organizations.

One of her favorite past times is staying physically active by playing sports

like softball and volleyball on local community teams. She also enjoys wearing the hat of team mom when needed, and will even make up some theme music and programs for sport organizations.

Her talents with music have won her awards with civilian and military organizations. The most recent award she has won was a Certificate of Excellence from the V CORPS Summer Safety contest. The jingle she wrote and performed won a second place prize for the 2005 Summer Safety Campaign.

If you have a program, event or activity you want considered for coverage in the Training Times, e-mail usaggnews@graf.eur.army.mil or call DSN 475-NEWS (6397) or civilian 09641-83-6397.

TRAINING TIMES

Grafenwoehr • Hohenfels • Vilseck

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Flu vaccine now available

Officials hopeful everyone vaccinated by Dec. 31

Europe Regional Medical Command Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Enough influenza vaccine has arrived in Europe and distributed to Army medical facilities to allow the Army to return to mandatory vaccinations for Soldiers and a full immunization program for all Army health care beneficiaries this year.

Last year, unexpected shortages caused by the closure of one of the leading suppliers to the United States caused the nation, and the Army, to limit immunizations to only the most critically needed categories.

Sufficient supplies arrived in October to begin immunization programs for deployed and deploying Soldiers, and members of the high-risk beneficiary categories, such as infants,

healthcare providers and those 65 years of age and older, according to Col. Allen J. Kraft, Chief, Force Health Protection Office, Europe Regional Medical Command. The latest shipment allows Army health clinics to give the vaccine to all beneficiaries.

As the program returns to being a mandatory one for Soldiers, Kraft pointed out that immunizations must be recorded in the Army's Medical Protection System known as MEDPROS, a computerized database that tracks medical readiness items. Commander's use this desktop tool to gauge the medical readiness in their units.

"Our goal is to complete all vaccinations by the end of December," Kraft said. "One of our missions is to protect Soldiers and families through prevention programs, and this can be one of the most successful protection programs

we offer if everyone participates."

Influenza killed 37,000 Americans last year, and Army medical treatment facilities in Europe handled 177 cases of the disease.

"That's a lot of people, considering that influenza is a preventable disease," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) William P. Corr, ERMCM's preventive medicine expert. He also heads the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's preventive medicine division.

The yearly flu should not be confused with the avian flu that is making headlines. There is currently no vaccine to protect humans against the H5N1 virus that is being seen in Asia. The Centers for Disease Control reports that vaccine development efforts are under way. Studies suggest that the prescription medicines approved for

human flu viruses would work in preventing bird flu infection in humans. However, flu viruses can become resistant to these drugs, so these medications may not always work.

Corr urged all beneficiaries to take advantage of the vaccination program. He said the vaccination, in conjunction with other preventive measures can help stop the disease from spreading. Some of the things people can do, he said, are to wash hands often, to cover the nose and mouth in the crook of an arm rather than onto the hands when sneezing, and staying home if you do become infected to limit exposure for others.

Now that the vaccine is widely available, beneficiaries should check with their local health care facility, or be alert for radio, television and newspaper announcements within their communities.

Hohenfels Fall Safety Day

by Alice Adler
Training Times

The safety of Soldiers, civilians and family members is one of the Army's top priorities. Frequent PCS moves often put Soldiers and their families in places and environments that are new to them and may contain hazards they have never encountered. With that in mind, posts in USAREUR conduct Safety Day training two times a year, in the spring and in the fall.

Many Soldiers and civilians have never before lived in a place where winter can mean cold, snow and ice. Organizers of the Fall Safety Day hoped to point out potential winter hazards unique to a cold climate and how to avoid them.

Hohenfels held its Fall Safety Day training Nov. 9, and for an entire day Soldiers and

civilians went from station-to-station around Hohenfels, learning many points that will help them and their families stay safe this winter.

A winter driving video pointed out some of the unique hazards associated with driving in the snow and ice. This information was particularly useful to personnel in Hohenfels, where snowfall in the winter is usually measured in feet instead of inches. In a demonstration of some of these conditions, participants also watched as a driver demonstrated correct driving techniques on a wet road.

Another video demonstrated how rapidly a house fire can spread, and the effects such a fire has on the home and its occupants.

In another fire demonstration, representatives from the fire department showed observers how to effectively put out a person whose clothing has caught fire. This demon-

stration was in direct response to a recent accident in the training area where one civilian employee was injured and another killed after their clothing caught fire. Soldiers at the scene reacted quickly to the accident, prompting organizers to realize that all Soldiers should be able to react correctly to such an accident.

Special simulation machines demonstrated how to get out of a vehicle rollover accident and the importance of wearing a set belt at all times while driving. A display on motorcycle safety gear and regulations was also available.

The final demonstration involved a pair of "drunk goggles." Wearers were given the opportunity to wear the glasses which simulate the effect of too much to drink on a person's vision, balance and, ultimately, their judgment.



One Safety Day demonstration involved an example of driving on wet and icy roads.

Hohenfels' Wolff is Stalwart Award finalist

by Alice Adler
Training Times

Hohenfels School Liaison Officer Michele Wolff recently had the honor of being one of only three finalists in USAREUR to be nominated for the military's prestigious Stalwart Award for 2004-2005. Wolff and the other finalists traveled to the Commander's Conference in Orlando, Florida from Oct. 31 to Nov. 4 to attend the awards ceremony.

The Stalwart Award recognizes IMA personnel, including military members, civilian employees, and contract employees who have exhibited strength and vigor of mind, body and spirit in promoting the IMA



Michele Wolff

mission and vision. Those nominated for the Award have demonstrated the highest standards of performance in ways worthy of formal recognition.

As the School Liaison Officer, Wolff is the go-between that allows for effective communication between the command of USAG Hohenfels and the Department of Defense Schools on post. She assists in problem resolution between the two groups, and works daily to improve the school environment in Hohenfels.

In her nomination for the award, Wolff was recognized for a number of accomplishments, including her work on the Hohenfels Summer Hire Program, Earth Day events and the annual Groundhog Shadow Day.

Wolff, along with Teen Services director Kay Berube, began a Summer Hire Training Program this year that has been adopted

by several other installations in Europe. Students who were hired by various offices on post for summer jobs spent Thursday mornings, while their co-workers were engaged in Sergeant's Time training, in a series of classes aimed at teaching students more about the work environment, getting into college and other important life skills.

This year's Earth Day program saw groups of American as well as German school children hiking around the woods of Hohenfels, learning about the indigenous plant and animal life.

The Groundhog Shadow Day program is an event at all DoDDS Schools in Europe. Students sign up to "shadow" their parent or another adult at their job all day. Hohenfels, which claims only slightly over 800 students in both the elementary and high schools, saw record high participation levels this year. Over 500 students took part in this educational work day.

News Briefs

ATTN: Warrant Officers

The Oberfalz-Franken chapter of the U.S. Warrant Officer Association will meet Dec. 8 at 11:30 a.m. in the basement of Graf's Tower View Inn. Contact CW3 Ryan Senkbile, DSN 475-7160 or e-mail ryan.dale.senkbile@us.army.mil for details.

ACS new parent support

New Parent Support at ACS is stronger than ever, with classes such as:

Daddy Boot Camp	Infant Massage
Labor and Delivery	Infant Safety
Breastfeeding	

New Parent Support holds a "Mommy and Me Play Morning" every other Friday at CYS 10-11:30 a.m. New Parent Support also makes home visits and gives hospital tours. For info, call ACS at DSN 476-2650 or visit our website at <https://100thasg.euromwr.army.mil/acs/>

Thanksgiving services

Nov. 23: Vilseck Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service held at the Vilseck Chapel, 6:30 p.m. Special presentation by Covenant Players. Service followed by potluck pie fellowship.

Nov. 24: Service at the Graf Chapel, 10 a.m. All are welcome. POC Chaplain Gary Brown, DSN 475-1370.

Parish Christmas luncheon

Dec. 11: Our Lady of the Woods & Wilderness Catholic Parish Christmas Luncheon at the Tower View Restaurant starting 1 p.m. Donations: Adults: \$5, Children (under 9): \$3

RSVP by 4 Dec. to Ali Mako at DSN 476-3696 or CIV 09662-41305; e-mail allison.mako@graf.eur.army.mil

Christmas eve services

Our Lady of the Woods & Wilderness
Catholic Community Christmas Eve Services.
Vilseck Chapel at 5 p.m.
Graf Chapel at 7:30 p.m.
There will be no Christmas Day Service.

VSCS silent auction

Join the Vilseck Spouse's and Civilians Club Dec. 1 at their holiday Silent Auction Luncheon. Christmas wreaths donated from various organizations will be auctioned at Yesterday's Club 11:30 a.m. RSVP: Kirsten Botsford by Nov. 28 at 09662-420836

Ornament exchange

The Hohenfels Community and Spouses Club would like to invite you to an Ornament Exchange. Mark your calendars for noon on Dec. 14 and come on out to Zur Post in Velburg. Don't forget to bring an ornament. For more info and to RSVP contact Tammy Bagdasarian at CIV 09472-911787 or tammybagdasarian@hotmail.com.

Vilseck pre-school storytime

Come to the Vilseck library for pre-school storytime every Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. Stories and crafts for preschoolers. POC is Karen Beck at DSN 476-1740.

VAT closed for lunch

The Grafenwoehr Tax Relief Office (VAT) is now closed for lunch. Current hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

CMR and Post Office Holiday Schedule

Holiday operating hours for CMRs and post offices in USAG Grafenwoehr communities will be as follows:

Vilseck & Graf CMRs 14 November through 30 December	
Mon thru Wed, Friday	9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Thursday	9 a.m.–5 p.m.
19 November through 17 December	
Saturdays	9 a.m.–2 p.m.
24 December	
Saturday	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Hohenfels CMR 19 November through 24 December	
Monday through Friday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Vilseck & Graf RPOs 14 November through 23 December	
Mon thru Wed, Friday	
(Graf only)	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Thursday (Graf)	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday (Vilseck)	11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Friday (Graf)	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Friday (Vilseck)	9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Hohenfels RPO 14 November through 21 December	
Monday thru Wednesday, Friday	9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Regular, non-holiday operating days and hours for USAG Grafenwoehr CMRs and post offices can be found on the garrison website (www.100asg.army.mil) under the "phonebook" pull-down for each community.

Vilseck celebrates Vets past and present



Photo by Kathy Jordan
Left to right: Josh Dickson and Kevin Waters of Boy Scout Troop 240, raise the United States flag during the Veterans Day ceremony.

by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

A Nov. 11 Veterans Day celebration held on Rose Barracks honored service members past and present for sacrifices made at home and abroad. The ceremony was conducted by members of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

“Veterans Day is a holiday to pay tribute to the sacrifices of all Veterans and thank them for their services to the United States of America,” said Lt. Col. Michael Todd, 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division commander.

Todd explained the difference between this celebration and another important day of remembrance: “It differs from Memorial Day because we remember the ultimate sacrifice paid by our war dead on Memorial Day.”

Robert Crawford, American Legion Post 45 commander, spoke of the bond that Americans have with veterans, and the difference they have made through their selfless sacrifices. “Today across the world Americans are gathered together in groups just like this one. We are drawn together in a celebration of and with veterans, to honor them, and to give thanks to them. As each and every citizen knows deep in their hearts, without veterans their lives would be drastically different.”

“Veterans Day is a holiday to pay tribute to the sacrifices of all Veterans and thank them for their services to the United States of America.”

The selection ‘In Flanders Field’ was read by Boy Scout 240 Troop member Colt Edwards. He explained why he thought this poem was special for the occasion: “I thought it was an important poem because it is a poem about World War I and about veterans. I got the idea about doing the poem when I went to a merit badge fair. One of the veterans was handing out poppies and in the poem there is a line that talks about poppies.”

“I think it was a great ceremony and a great tribute to our veterans from past wars and our present veterans and those of the future,” said Sgt. Maj. Gregory Baugh, 3rd Brigade, after the ceremony.

The turnout for the ceremony was appreciated by Todd. “I was pleased about the turn out. I thought it was great that all these folks showed up in support of all our veterans. I think what Mr. Crawford said in his speech is true, a lot of times we support our Soldiers, but sometimes we forget about supporting our veterans. It’s a long line and we are all connected, we are all brothers and

sisters in arms.”

Spc. Jason Enriquez wanted to give a special tribute to those who have put themselves in harm’s way for the freedom and protection of others. “Today was very important for today’s Soldiers and those from the past. It pays tribute to those who paid such a big price for others.”

Veterans visit Graf classrooms



Photo by Shannon Hill
Lt. Col. Stephen Mandes fielded questions from Renee Brassard’s kindergarten class about what it means to be a Soldier.

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 2005, Veteran’s Day was commemorated by USAG Grafenwoehr community members.

The day before, however, was marked by a special pre-Veteran’s Day event at Graf’s elementary school.

In response to an email sent out by Susan Bartolotto, Grafenwoehr Elementary School’s volunteer coordinator, 18 retired and active-duty Soldiers took time to speak to students and answer questions.

Lt. Col. Stephen Mandes spoke to Renee Brassard’s kindergarten class, explaining that “it’s really important to understand why we celebrate Veteran’s Day, why they [the Soldiers] do what they do, and what it means to be a Soldier.”

Some of the topics covered and questions posed included why the United States has Soldiers in Iraq, the responsibilities of being a Soldier, and even the purpose of a Soldier’s uniform.

“It was a personal pleasure working with these kids, and talking and listening to them,” said James Merideth, a retired Capt.

On Veteran’s Day, Boy and Girl Scout Troops joined

ranks with VFW and American Legion members in an official ceremony at the base of the American flag on Grafenwoehr. Speeches honoring Soldiers and veterans were shared, and accented by patriotic songs celebrating the national holiday.

Veteran’s Day, originally known as Armistice Day, became a national holiday in 1938. Its origin marks the end of <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0852742.html> World War I, which officially ended on June 28, 1919, with the signing of the <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0861782.html> Treaty of Versailles. The actual fighting between the Allies and Germany, however, ended seven months earlier with the <http://www.infoplease.com/ipd/A0324255.html> armistice, which went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Armistice Day officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later. On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veteran’s Day to honor all U.S. veterans.

Veteran’s Day will always strike a personal note for Soldiers and their families, and the interactive support and involvement demonstrated on Nov. 10 and 11 shows that this community will always come through – together.

Winter Health & Safety Tips

The American Red Cross

As Old Man Winter begins to bear down, the American Red Cross urges you to fight the frigid conditions by following these tips to stay safe in cold weather:

- Dress appropriately before going outdoors. The air temperature does not have to be below freezing for someone to experience cold emergencies such as hypothermia and frostbite.
- Dress in layers so you can adjust to changing conditions. Most of your body heat is lost through your head so wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears.
- Mittens provide more warmth to your hands than gloves.
- Wear waterproof, insulated boots to help avoid hypothermia or frostbite by keeping your feet warm and dry.
- Recognize the symptoms of hypothermia that can be a serious medical condition: confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.
- Recognize frostbite warning signs: gray, white or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, waxy feeling skin. Seek medical attention immediately if you have these symptoms.

To learn more about signals of and how to care for cold- or heat-related problems, take a Community First Aid and Safety course from your local Red Cross station.

● Holiday traveling and winter can also be a dangerous combination. Allow extra time when traveling. Monitor weather conditions carefully and adhere to travel advisories.

● Keep a winter storm survival kit in your car. This should include blankets, food, flares, chains, gloves and first aid supplies.

Hohenfels JROTC Navigates “The Box”



Photo by Dawn Claggett
Cadet Jessica Grazier, left, consults the terrain map as cadet Kristin Noble surveys the area.

by Dawn Claggett

Hohenfels High School JROTC cadets participated in a Land Navigation trip on Oct. 20. The training exercise took place in the Hohenfels training area, also known as “The Box.”

The goal is for cadets to find three points given by the safety NCOs who are accustomed to the course. Using a compass, map, and protractor, cadets are to find all three points, plus locate the direction to their first starting point.

The land navigation task is more difficult than it may seem, given there are numerous markers placed in various locations on an area that the cadets are completely unfamiliar with. It is entirely too easy to get off-track and possibly lost. There were many safety NCOs monitoring the exercise, making sure no one was lost or injured.

The land navigation course also provided an opportunity for competition for the cadets. Those in the Raiders program (a program equivalent to the Army Rangers for advanced JROTC cadets) compete against each other for the highest score, which goes onto the Raider Board, to add to their cumulative scores. Every raider was a team leader in their group, and none were in a group together. The top finishing JROTC teams were:

- 1st Place: C/CPT Patrick Smith, C/SGT Van Fleet, C/PVT Emily Mittag
- 2nd Place: C/SFC Daniel Mateo, C/PVT James Scotto, C/CPL Emily Sherril
- 3rd Place: C/1LT Jessica Grazier, C/SGT Dawn Claggett, C/SFC Christen Noble, C/CPL Merissa Sanchez



Photo by Alice Adler

Hohenfels wine tasting

Visitors at the Nov. 9 HCSC Wine Tasting put grapes to the test.

Czechs honor U.S. Veterans

Photos and article by Nick D'Amario

USAGG Public Affairs

While Veteran's day is celebrated in the U.S. and every U.S. military community worldwide, it is also celebrated in countries that are marked by the past honor and heroism of U.S. Soldiers who have served overseas.

One such place is Rokycany, a town of 15,000 people, just east of the city of Plzen in the Czech Republic.

Every year, since 1991, dozens of Veterans of Foreign Wars members celebrate Nov. 11 with a series of ceremonies.

First, there is the ceremony at the Rokycany demarcation monument. The demarcation is representative of the 1945 agreement between the U.S. and Russians that U.S. forces would not advance further east than Plzen; although General George S. Patton's 3rd Army actually went as far east as Prague before he was ordered to pull back.



Thadius Jones leads the Nov. 13 parade that ended in front of Rokycany's town hall.



From left: Hal Hedges, Rokycany mayor Jan Baloun, Drahoslav Riha, and Lt. Col. David Barsness at the Nov. 11 demarcation ceremony.



Two Czech patriots pay tribute to U.S. vets during ceremonies, one dressed in a U.S. WW II uniform, near Patton's statue in Dysina.

Lt. Col. David Barsness, represented William J. Cabaniss, U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic, at the Nov. 11 demarcation ceremony.

Second, there is a "Blessing of the Flags" at Rokycany's Virgin Mary of the Snow church, a beautiful service that filled the church with standing room only.

Third, there is a one-mile parade that ends in front of the baroque town hall in the town's center. The parade included a Czech marching band, squads of Czechs dressed in World War II uniforms and militaria, VFW members, and dozens of dignitaries and friends of the VFW.

Hundreds of Czechs showed up at the town center to cheer the parade, wave flags, and listen to VFW keynote speakers and Jan Baloun, the town's mayor, share messages of friendship and peace between the two nations.

This year, for the first time, VFW celebrations included a visit to the General Patton statue in Dysina, a village situated a few miles northwest of Rokycany. Unveiled in July 2005, the statue honors the World War II 3rd Army General known for liberating the Czech people.

Since 1991, Hal Hedges has been a regular host of Veteran's Day celebrations at Rokycany. Hedges has worked closely with Baloun and Marie Hlavkova, vice mayor, who in-turn provide outstanding support for up to 75 vets and their families participating in the programs spanning three days.

Many U.S. veterans traveled long distances to be in Rokycany, i. e., Peter Luste, the VFW Department of Europe Commander, traveled from Vicenza, Italy.

Robert Mowery, VFW District 3 Commander for Bavaria and Berlin (responsible for 12 VFW posts with 5,000 members), traveled from Nuernberg.

Two of the VFW "social organizers" that have been planning the 3-day event for the past six months were Frank Marsh and Thadius Jones.

When not involved in VFW events, Marsh has been involved with charity work for churches, hospitals, the Red Cross, the poor and needy, and other worthy causes for over 30 years.

Marsh, a past VFW post commander, has also played Santa for the Giebelstadt, Wuerzburg and Kitzingen communities since 1971. Marsh has a simple but powerful philosophy: "Let people see you care about them and they'll grow up better. Give them something they wouldn't otherwise have."

Gerald Goetze, a VFW member from Erlangen, came back to Rokycany for his second visit for the "camaraderie."

There are also local, regular supporters that the VFW can count on joining them every year.

Take, for example, Drahoslav Riha. An ardent Czech patriot and friend of the VFW, he has proudly borne a large American flag in honor of Veteran's day since celebrations started in Rokycany 14 years ago.

Whatever the reason these men and women of the VFW have for coming to Rokycany, they are each and every one an ambassador. And as such, each is admired by Czechs both young and old.

There are the old who vividly remember the hardships and horrors the U.S. Soldiers liberated them from.



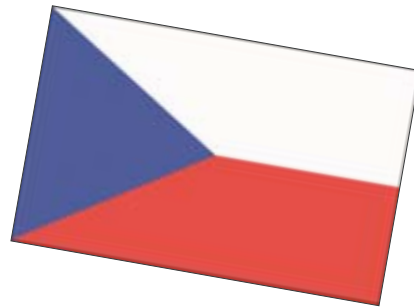
Jan Baloun, Rokycany mayor (3rd from right) was present at every key event during the Nov. 11-13 Veteran's Day weekend celebrations.



This plaque is mounted near the entrance of Rokycany's town hall, honoring the liberators from the 9th Infantry Regiment.



VFW members stand in the town center following Nov. 13 "Blessing of the Flags" ceremonies.



A VFW member enters Rokycany's Virgin Mary of the Snow church for the special service honoring U.S. veterans.

General Patton's statue was unveiled 7 July 2005 in Dysina, and a visit by U.S. vets was included in Veteran's Day ceremonies

Rothenburg – worth visiting the year-round

Photos and article by Alice Adler
Training Times

Before you arrived in Germany, what was your image of the perfect German village? I bet you thought of half-timbered houses, brightly-colored buildings and winding city walls. You pictured quaint shops and narrow side streets.

You were imaging Rothenburg ob der Tauber,

This ridiculously cute town along the Romantic Road is one of Germany's most visited tourist locations. Although the crowds can get a little thick in the summer months, Rothenburg is worth a visit any time of year.

A favorite tourist activity in Rothenburg is to walk the city wall. The entire ring runs about three and a half kilometers, and affords some of the best views of the town and the surrounding fields.

Climb the Rathaus tower for another commanding view of the town. This impressive building was started in the 14th century, but completed during the Renaissance, making it an interesting mix of architectural styles.

One very unique sight to see in Rothenburg is the Criminal Museum. The only museum of its kind in Europe, this interesting place shows what law and punishment was like in medieval times. Shame masks, chastity belts and various instruments of torture frighten and delight kids of all ages.

No city in Germany is complete without a Glockenspiel, and Rothenburg delivers in spades. Every day at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., in the upper reaches of the tourist information office, an interesting bit of Rothenburg's history is played out for all to see. According to local legend, during the Thirty Years' War the mayor of Rothenburg saved the town from conquest and destruction by downing, in one massive gulp, three liters of wine. You can watch as this brave man's deeds are re-enacted daily, but don't try it yourself, as it is generally agreed that the charming story is totally false.

By far the best part of visiting Rothenburg is wandering its quaint streets. Take your time to explore and you too will fall in love with the beauty of Rothenburg.

To learn more about Rothenburg, visit their website at www.rothenburg.de



The fairy tale streets of Rothenburg are lined with all kinds of shops.



Rothenburg's city wall can be walked for the entire perimeter of the old town center.



Rothenburg's famous Glockenspiel depicts the town's history.

Ice skating is fun, healthy and memorable

by Stefanie Stroell
AFN-Bavaria

Crunch, crunch, crunch ... shhhhhhhh ... and stop. Your nose is red and running, your gloved hands tingling from the cold, and the icy-fresh air is filling your lungs.

When is the last time you've gone ice skating?

I don't actually remember the first time I got on ice skates – I was too young to remember – and I'm not sure if I started roller skating or ice skating first. Nevertheless, if you can do one, you can do the other.

We had a lake in our village, and all the kids gathered to skate during the winter. Moms and dads came by to bring us warm tea and Christmas cookies and watch us fly over the frozen water. Sometimes even Dad skated with us, and that was the greatest.

It has always fascinated me how easy it looks on TV when the beautiful Ice Princess, smiling in her fancy outfit, dances and flies over the glittering ice rink as if she was hanging on strings like a puppet.

Or how extremely rough and angry ice hockey players can get, smashing each other against the boards. Watching hockey never ceases to scare me.

Nonetheless, ice skating has lots of merit. Skating works most of your major muscle groups, provides lots of fresh oxygen and you can involve your whole family in it.

Plus, after a couple of hours of ice skating, having a warm snack and putting your aching legs up is a definite bonus.

In the USAG Graf Area there are several ice skating velodroms (they're in Weiden, Amberg, Regensburg, Nuernberg, etc.), and the one in Weiden has both in and outdoor ice skating rinks. Prices are reasonable, and skates can be rented at all locations. Most of them also have a snack bar from which you can watch the ice rinks, and warm up a bit in between skating.

These locations offer classes for beginners through advanced, ice hockey teams for kids and adults, special hours for school

classes, laser-light disco skating, and teenage parties.

But make sure you're properly dressed – don't show up in a leotard, but rather, wear protective gear, especially if you are a beginner, because you will make more contact with the ice than you actually want. Gloves, a sweater, and a jacket (that you can take off if you get too hot), thick pants, thick and warm socks, and ear warmers. If you want to be an ice hockey player, there's a whole slew of protective gear they have to put on before hitting the ice (and believe me – they need it).

Aside from the fun and the healthy exercise, you'll collect memories for a life time. Sometimes my grandmother tells me about she and grandfather going ice skating – back in the "days." I love listening to her stories. Sipping on a hot cup of tea, watching the snow fall outside.

For more information on ice skating, log onto afneurope.net, click on the Bavaria link, and select the community calendar.



Everybody starts ice skating as a beginner, so take it slow and have fun.



Holiday Tree Lightings

Hohenfels
4 Dec, 4:20 p.m.
Bldg 1, Parking Lot

Grafenwoehr
6 Dec, 5:15 p.m.
corner Gettysburg Ave/Wilbur Road

Vilseck
8 Dec, 5:15 p.m.
next to the Health Clinic

Enjoy the Christmas spirit,
German & American choirs / bands
and free refreshments.
Get a surprise from
Sankt Nikolaus and Santa Claus.

Holiday Ball 2005



CHILD CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE
WHEN: December 9, 2005 6 p.m. - midnight
WHERE: Grafenwoehr CDC
AGES: 6 weeks - 11 years-old
COST: \$4 per hour plus a \$5 reservation fee
Children must be registered with CYS prior to Dec. 9.
For more information,
contact Anita Payne-Landgraf at 475-8430

7th Army Joint Multinational
Training Command
and
U.S. Army Garrison-Grafenwoehr

Invite you to an evening of
Dinner, Dancing, Karaoke
and a visit from Santa
Friday evening, December 9th
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Event begins at 7 p.m.
at Stadthalle, Grafenwoehr

Costs:
Dinner – 21 Euro
Cash Bar

Dress: Formal
Military: Dress Blue Uniform
or Class A Uniform
with bow tie

Contact your unit
or department representative for tickets,
or call DSN 475-8221

German Food 101: Bayrisch Crème

A cool and creamy Bavarian delight

by Martina Bias
Special to the Training Times

Today’s recipe features a typical German dessert that you will often see served at the end of a festive meal.

Bayrisch Creme (Bavarian cream) is also well known under its international name “Creme Bavaoise.” It is a cool and creamy dessert of egg custard stiffened with gelatin, mixed with whipped cream (sometimes with added fruit purée or other flavors like coffee, chocolate or liquor), and then set in a mold.

The suffix “creme” in German means cream or is used as the term for the gelatin mold.

The origin of Bavarian cream is debatable. The Germans claim this specialty as their own creation, as do the French.

We know that during the late 17th and early 18th century many French chefs worked at the court of the Wittelsbach Princes (a German family that ruled Bavaria from the 12th century to 1918). This would have given them the contact to have learned it in Bavaria.

The famous French chef Carême (1783-1833) gives recipes for it in the early 18th century. This leads us to conclude that the French chefs working for the Bavarian rulers most likely learned something either the same or very similar while working in Bavaria. After they returned to France they continued to prepare it and called it Crème Bavaoise.

Its popularity started to spread. In addition to being served in a gelatin mold, it was also used as a cake and pastry filling, and next thing you know, the Americans found it made a great doughnut filling.

So if you would like a pleasantly creamy German finish to one of your next holiday meals, give this dessert a try. It is wonderful served with fresh fruit or a fruit sauce. Its pale white color makes it perfect for a Christmas finale when served on top of ruby red strawberry sauce and garnished with a sprig of green mint.

Guten Appetit!

Basic recipe for Bayrisch Crème

1 ½ cups whipping cream
3 envelopes (½ oz each) unflavored gelatin
¾ cup cold water
2 cups milk
2 vanilla beans or 1 Tbs. vanilla extract
¾ cup sugar
6 egg yolks

Whip the cream until soft peaks form (do not allow stiff peaks to form). Set aside in the refrigerator.

Soak the gelatin in cold water for at least 10 minutes.

Place a fine mesh strainer in a medium size bowl and fill a larger bowl with ice water. Set aside.

Pour milk into a medium sauce pan. If using vanilla beans, slit them open and scrape the seeds into the milk, then add the entire pod. If using vanilla extract, add after cream is cooked.

Bring the milk to a boil. Remove from heat and allow the flavor of the bean to infuse into the milk for about 30 minutes.

Remove the bean pods and reheat the milk. Set aside.

Whisk the egg yolks and sugar until thickened and pale in color. Add ½ cup of the hot milk to the egg mixture, stirring constantly to temper the eggs. Then add the tempered yolks to the milk in the saucepan. Cook over very low heat, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thickened.

Pour the custard through the mesh strainer into the medium size bowl. Add the softened gelatin and whisk until it has dissolved. If using vanilla extract, add it now.

Place the bowl inside the larger bowl filled with ice water. Stir the mixture until it starts to cool and begins to thicken slightly.

Fold in the whipped cream.

Use as desired or pour into a large mold, a serving bowl or several smaller molds or individual serving bowls. Chill until firm and unmold by placing in hot water for 15 seconds. Serve with fresh fruit or on top of a fruit sauce.

Yield: 10 – 12 servings

Do you have a favorite German dish you would like to recreate at home? You can email me at martina.bias@us.army.mil, and I might be able to feature your requested recipe in one of the future issues.



German Culture 101: Die Gstaade Zeit

Christmas is *quiet time* for Germans

by Martina Bias
Special to the Training Times

When I first moved to the United States with my American husband, I adjusted to my new life and the different culture remarkably well.

It wasn’t until December when Christmas came that I got terribly homesick.

Everything was so different all of a sudden, especially the mood of the season. It was so loud and happy! My husband introduced me to his childhood favorites: Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and jolly old Santa Claus chuckling “Ho, Ho, Ho.” Christmas parties featured Karaoke and other loud music. I desperately wanted to share his joy and build common traditions, but it just didn’t feel right to me. It didn’t match the way I had experienced this time of year growing up in Bavaria.

Bavarians refer to the winter months as “die gstaade Zeit” (loosely translated: “the quiet time”). They often wish each other “besinnliche Weihnachten” (a reflective Christmas). These terms describe the way Germans approach the time of year when the days are shorter, the temperatures drop and nature goes to sleep.

It is no wonder that the composer of Silent Night, Holy Night (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht originally) was a German – Franz Gruber.

As I explained in the Oct. 26 Training Times, the reflection starts in November with the holidays of mourning and repentance. At the end of the month, we enter the Advent season. Germans quietly anticipate Christmas with the Advent wreath (often home made), lighting one candle each Sunday until all four are lit, and the Advent calendar for kids where each day that has passed is sweetened with a little surprise.

For Germans, Christmas and the birth of Christ are irrefutably linked. Nearly all German Christmas songs refer to the savior’s birth. You will also find a nativity scene displayed in most

German households this time of year. The German St. Nikolaus who visits the children on Dec. 6 is nothing like the Santa Claus figure American children are familiar with.

He is not a kind old man fulfilling their wishes for toys, but rather a Bishop (as can be seen by

Christmas gifts are delivered by the Christkind (Christ child) on Dec. 24, symbolic of the gift of salvation Jesus gave the people.

The tradition in most German homes is still to read the Christmas passage from the Bible and sing Christmas songs with each other before the



the hat he is wearing) who sits in judgment over the behavior of the children. The encounters with him are usually a lot more private and personal, as he visits them at home, instead of having them come to the mall to sit on his lap.

gifts are opened. Depending on the age of the children, a Christmas worship service is attended in the afternoon or later that night.

You won’t find any major sports events going on during the holidays in Germany either.

I was shocked to see live football games on American TV during Thanksgiving and Christmas. That is unheard of in Germany. Germans believe that everybody should be given the chance to spend this special time with their family. The quiet of the Christmas season is very important to Germans and family does take the center stage.

Baking cookies, Stollen (German fruit cake) and Lebkuchen (watch for recipes for this German spice cookie in the next issue) is high on the list of favorite activities as well as going on long walks (preferably through the snow), and then enjoying the baked goods by candle light along with some warming Gluehwein (hot, spiced red wine) while sitting next to a comforting fire.

The evenings are often spent doing crafts like the traditional Strohsterne (straw stars) or decorations featuring pine cones. Often, kids and adults alike are also busy working on hand-made gifts for friends and family.

This year, maybe you can take some time out between the hustle and bustle of your Christmas schedule to enjoy the quiet side of Christmas. Take a stroll and visit one of the many Christkindl markets in the area and enjoy the local Christmas specialties. Reflect on the many blessings you have received and just be still and savor “die gstaade Zeit.”

Besinnliche Weihnachten!

PS: if your children insist on sending a letter with their wishes to the German Santa Claus, you can mail it to the Bavarian Weihnachtsmann (literally: Christmas man). He lives in Himmelstadt (heaven town). Simply address your envelope as follows and indicate your German address as the sender.

An den Weihnachtsmann
97267 Himmelstadt

Graf DFAC promises great food

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

The award-winning Camp Normandy dining facility is in the throes of preparing for this year’s Thanksgiving feast.

The meal is open to the entire community. Ordinarily serving around 350 people daily, the installation managers expect to provide food to 900 people; to include the local German mayor, VIPs, Soldiers, and military families. Local nationals are also invited to attend, provided an ID card holder accompanies them.

Along with traditional Thanksgiving fare, there will also be

seafood, including crab legs, available.

For the family members of E4 and below, the meal will cost \$4.90 a person. For everyone else the price will be \$5.80. The hours of the dining facility will consist of a continental breakfast from 6-7 a.m., and lunch (and the main meal) will be served from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., with dinnertime rounding out the day from 4-5 p.m.

George Holland, the dining facility’s assistant manager, assures everyone that their “main focus is to provide the best quality food service to our Soldiers. We focus on making sure everything is top-notch,” he said.

In addition to the Thanksgiving activities, the dining facility is preparing for the Installation Management Agency-European Culinary Inspection. This is a competition between all the large military installations in Europe. Camp Normandy will undergo inspection at the beginning of December. This is the first time it has been the possible recipient of this award.

So if you’re looking for some good cooking, head on out to the well-reputed Camp Normandy dining facility on Thanksgiving Day, and be sure to offer words of support and encouragement to the hard-working staff.

Vilseck Vikings win championship 33-0

Impressive season with 8 wins, no losses

by Kathy Jordan
Training times

The Vilseck Mitey Mite Vikings football team won the championship game Nov. 5 on their home turf against Bamberg with a score of 33-0. The seven to nine year-old group of athletes had an impressive season of eight wins and no losses.

The team practiced hard, working on offensive and defensive plays and running sprints before and after practice.

“We had some great talent on the team, the kids worked hard at practice. We did not practice more than any other team, but we practiced hard. You could see as the games wore on that our kids maintained their level of efficiency,” said Andrew Groeger, offensive coach.

For members of the Vikings football team, the playing field was often the place where they learned lessons about the benefits of hard work.

“For our team it was more about letting the kids know you have to practice hard so you can play well. You have to put in the time and the hard work at the beginning so that you can reap the benefits later. Whether that’s related to a football game an exam or getting into college, it’s basically all the same,” said John McKissock, offensive coach.

The players benefited from having five coaches on the sidelines.

“We had five great coaches out there on the field. It gave us an opportunity to give a little more attention to some of the kids that needed a little extra help. It gave the kids a chance to develop their skills and be the best player they could be on the field,” said Darryl Lewis, defensive coach.

The team kept winning games because they quickly mastered the fundamentals, said

McKissock: “We focused on the fundamentals and we drilled that into their heads all through the pre-season and into the first two games. At that point we realized the kids had established the fundamentals so well in their own minds,

that we slowly started adding more complexity to the defense and offense.

By the end of the season we were running variations of motion plays with passing. We passed six or seven times during a game. About

five percent of our game was passing and at the age level these kids were that was pretty big.”

“We had really great dedicated coaches. Adrian Trevino left two days before our last game to go to Iraq, and Taylor Donohoe was another great part of the defensive coaching line up,” said Lewis.

The kids taught the coaches a few things about determination and pride.

“It was extremely rewarding to me,” said Groeger. “You look into these 13 or 14 faces each week and you get to know the kids. We work hard at our day jobs, but this was a great break for us. It helps you put things in perspective and you remember what is important,” he said.

The parents also contributed to the success of the Vikings football team.

“We had amazing parents...the parents were enthusiastic. They encouraged their kids from the sideline; they didn’t get in the way of the coaches. They were just spectators who cheered for their kids. They got involved and they volunteered their time and efforts,” said McKissock.

Volunteering has many benefits and rewards for those who offer their time and knowledge. “From a volunteer’s aspect of it, it has been a fantastic experience. Wherever I am, from now on I am going to look for opportunities to volunteer, especially in sports,” said Groeger.

The kids were praised by the coaching staff for their discipline, good nature and willingness to learn.

“The kids had a lot of heart. They came out and had such great team spirit. You can demand a lot of kids...in the right environment kids can amaze and astonish you,” Lewis said.



Photo by Adrian Trevino

L-R bottom: Nathan Chaput, Dean McKissock, Cole McKissock, Bryan Trevino, Zach “Bubba” Melvin; **L-R middle:** Anthony Kleman, Gary “Big Al” Ingles, Jake “The Snake” Baumann, Michael “Cookie” Cook, Andrew Groeger; **L-R back:** Elijah Kyle, Sebastian “Sea Bass” Austin, Carlton “CC” Campbell, Josh Corriveau, Gabriel Lewis; **L-R last row (coaches):** John McKissock, Andy Groeger, Adrian Trevino, Darryl Lewis, Taylor Donohoe.

Hohenfels Tigers pounce on Div. III title

by Wes Arnold

After completing a spectacular regular season with a record of 5-0, a conference title, and remaining undefeated throughout the Division III playoffs, the Hohenfels Tigers traveled to Baumholder, Germany Nov. 5 for the European championship game.

The Tigers once again faced their rival, the Ansbach Cougars, whom they defeated in an emotional come-from-behind victory in the regular season.

Hohenfels was well represented with a large number of excited fans that came via the “fan bus” or by car.

The game started quick for the Tigers as they forced a fumble on the third play of the game. On the very next play, the Tiger’s Stephen Washington sprinted down the sidelines for a 35-yard touchdown run. On the Tigers next possession Brandon Merriweather rumbled in from three yards out for a score, which was set up by a 48-yard swing-pass from Jason Parks to B.J. Denson. Ansbach responded each time to the Tigers scores and it looked like another thriller was in-store with Ansbach leading 14-13 after the first quarter.

The Tiger defense stepped it up the rest of the game and

forced four second quarter interceptions. One interception by Damien Odum was returned 78 yards for a touchdown, and the Tigers led at Halftime 21-14.

*“It was
the perfect way
to go out,
undefeated and
champions.”*

The Tigers received the second half kickoff and put together an impressive 89-yard drive that took over five minutes of game time. Hohenfels quarterback Jason Parks made an impressive fourth-down run and stretched out for the first down inside the five. On the next play, Brandon Merriweather powered the ball in for the score. Anthony Marshall stretched the lead to 31-14 with a 22-yard field goal. The Tigers defense held strong over the final two quarters allowing only one touchdown. Stephen Washington scored in the final seconds to give the Tigers a 37-20 lead.

As the Scoreboard buzzer sounded, the Tigers stormed the field – they had won the Division III championship. Stephen Washington was named offensive MVP and B.J. Denson was named defensive MVP for the game. For the seven players, who are seniors with Hohenfels High School, it was special moment. Patrick Smith, a senior defensive end, said, “It was the perfect way to go out, undefeated and champions.”

Team Roster

Afelin, Kalani	Odum, Damion
Arnett, Tyler	Odum, Raymond
Arnold, Wes	Ofesa, Isiai
Allen-Baxter, Jordan	Parks, Jason
Anikin, Sergio	Payne, Nic
Apodaca, Matt	Redmond, Chris
Apodaca, Nathanial	Smith, Patrick
Barnes, Michael	Tillberg, Michael
Byon, Sung	Vandal, Eric
Colantuono, Anthony	VanFleet, Patrick
Colantuono, Ceasare	Washington, Stephen
Crook, Jeremy	
Denson, BJ	Manager
Elliott, Chris	Melissa Kahler
Fisher, Chris	
Fuchs, Martin	
LeMasters, Alex	Coaches
Marshall, Anthony	Shawn Rodman
Martin, Aaron	Steve Wolf
Martin, Tre	Brit Boyer
Merriweather, Brandon	Charles Perryman
Mesch, John	Ron Stillman



The Hohenfels Tigers clawed past Ansbach with a 37-20 victory for the Division III title.

Vet Day basketball tourney follows clinic

by Shannon Hill
Training Times

The Veteran's Day Basketball Tournament held at the Grafenwoehr Field House was the first unit-level basketball league competition held after the annual week-long coaches' and officials' clinic.

The league is run by Mike Bradfish, and consists of four teams. In jerseys supplied by the Field House, the teams will compete one to two nights a week.

The championship game was played on Nov. 12. At a well-attended match, the 615 MP Company beat out the JMTNCO-Academy, 68-58.

Another aspect of the games was the evaluation of the officials. The 12 participants had just undergone training for handling themselves on the court, managing the scoreboard and the scoreboard clock, and running the shot clock.

... there were some very good teams and the competition was good.

"It was a great clinic. I learned a lot, and got a lot of good positive feedback. I really enjoyed it," Said Staff Sgt. Lynette Yarbrough-Watts, a new official.

Sgt. Ursula Gunter, coach of the winning 615 MP Co., said that there were some very good teams and that the competition was good. According to Sgt. 1st Class Damon Watson, a player for the NCO-Academy, spectators can be assured of more intense competition. He "just wants everybody to know we're the new management."

People interested in attending future games should keep a lookout for flyers and advertisements on AFN Bavaria and in the Training Times.

615 MP Co. players and family members display their trophies from the Veteran's Basketball Tournament.



Photo by Shannon Hill

Graf soccer team snags No. 2 spot in IMA-E



Victoria Whealton dribbles toward the Wiesbaden goalie; she then crossed to Erik Biding for a goal.

Photo by Suzanne Biding

by Bill Biding
Training Times

The Grafenwoehr Junior soccer team played in the IMA-E Championships Nov. 11-13 in Wuerzburg. The top 8 teams in Europe were invited. The tournament was divided into A and B brackets. A bracket was Wuerzburg, Stuttgart, Landstuhl and Brussels. B bracket was Grafenwoehr, Bamberg, Wiesbaden and Vicenza.

A well-balanced offense made many outstanding runs and passes to set up the shots.

The first match was against Wiesbaden, a rematch of last year's championship match which they won 4-3. This year's results favored us 5-3. The second match against Vicenza we won 5-1, and the third match against Bamberg we won 5-2. The first 3 matches were played on Friday and Saturday.

Sunday morning we played Landstuhl, which came in second place in the A bracket. This match was tied at halftime 1-1. We took

the lead with ten minutes remaining to win 2-1. Our toughest match of the tournament.

In the finals we faced a talented Stuttgart team which scored at least eight goals on every team in the tournament. They beat us 8-2. Although the score was lop-sided, we had more shots on-goal than Stuttgart.

For the tournament we scored 19 goals. Erik Biding scored 10 with 6 assists. Jesse Hanes scored 5 with 3 assists, Catherine Deeter scored 3 with 4 assists, and Victoria Whealton Scored 1 with 5 assists. A well-balanced offense made many outstanding runs and passes to set up the shots. Defense played like a wall, considering every team was bigger than ours on defense.

The team members were Sean Anderson, Catherine Deeter, Langston Oxendine, Latoya Witherspoon, David Deeter, Erik Biding, Victoria Whealton, Jesse Hanes, Luke Hearn, Kaitlyn Schwartz and Karina Touzinsky.

Graf Redskins battle rival Vilseck Packers

Players show determination, sportsmanship in 20-13 Redskin win

by David and Valerie Dinges

Saturday, Nov. 5 started out as any ordinary autumn day in Germany...cold and rainy. This day, however, was anything but ordinary. You could see clouds of frozen breath rising up from the crowd that had gathered. The scene was set.

Players from Graf and Vilseck were fired up. One look into their eyes showed the sheer determination and discipline that had gotten them this far. The players took the field in what seemed slow motion and, if you listened close enough, you could hear their hearts pounding with excitement. As the defending champions, a great deal was at stake. This was Graf's second peeewe league championship. Could they win the title again against such a tough team like Vilseck?

It was an exciting game with a nail-biting finish. The first half was a battle of the defenses preventing any scoring until the very end. Vilseck took the lead with a touchdown 7-0. After regrouping at

halftime, Graf answered with a touchdown, but missed the extra point, making it 6-7. Vilseck scored again, but missed the extra point, keeping the lead 13-6. Keeping their determination and discipline, Graf scored and made the extra points to take the lead, 14-13. The remainder of the game was a fierce battle between the best peeewe teams in the league. The crowd went wild and roared with excitement. Who would win this battle? The final seconds ticked away and Graf made one last attempt at the end zone. Touchdown! They scored as the clock expired, winning the game 20-13.

Coaches Cpt. Dominguez, Graf teacher David Dinges, Sgt. Johnson and Col. Kennedy led the Graf Redskins. Their time and dedication was appreciated and the players found in their coaches the true spirit of sportsmanship. Win or lose, all the peeewe players came out champions that day.



Photo by Photostudio Spahn

The Graf Redskins Football Team



Photo by Kathy Jordan

Vilseck Child and Youth Services cheerleaders brave cold and foggy weather to cheer on the home crowd during recent Mitey Mite football action.

Red Cross Fall 2005 Course Schedule					
Date	Time	Course	Date	Time	Course
December 3, 2005 Grafenwoehr Office	9:00am-5:00pm	Adult, Infant, & Child CPR Cost: \$25.00	February 4, 2006 Grafenwoehr Office	9:00am-5:00pm	Adult, Infant, & Child CPR Cost: \$30.00
December 6, 2005 Vilseck Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation	February 7, 2006 Vilseck Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation
December 20, 2005 Grafenwoehr Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation	February 21, 2006 Grafenwoehr Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation
January 3, 2006 Vilseck Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation	Pre-payment is required for all Health and Safety classes. Please stop by the Vilseck or Graf office to make payment. Check or money orders please. If you have any question please call the Vilseck office at 476-1760.		
January 7, 2006 Vilseck Office	9:00am-5:00pm	Adult CPR & First Aid Cost: \$30.00			
January 17, 2006 Grafenwoehr Office	9:30am-11:30am	Volunteer Orientation			

Morning Star brightens Vilseck

Native American Heritage Month celebration

Article and photos by Kathy Jordan
Training Times

Dance, folktales and songs filled the Vilseck Elementary school multi-purpose room Nov. 18. Members of the Morning Star ensemble performed traditional and modern selections in honor of Native American Heritage month.

The Equal Opportunity Office and MWR were instrumental in bringing the group to the local area. The last time the Morning Star group performed here was Fall 1999.

“A big part of what we try to do is reach across the cultural boundaries. Today the United States is such a multi-ethnic place. The more we can understand and know about each other, the

better we can make it work. Often we only see a one-sided portrayal of different cultures in books of history or the movies,” said Gary Fields, director of Morning Star.

The dancers come from all parts of the U.S., and travel around Europe to share their culture with others. “We do this to share with people and let them know about our heritage. There are a lot of people here from the states, and there are a lot of Native Americans in the services,” said dancer Oklahoma Wilson Roberts.

The interaction with the audience through song and dance is a good way to connect with the crowd and give them a little history lesson as well, said Fields. “In school maybe the children hear about the dances or see them in movies. But it is much more powerful to see the real thing and shake hands and talk to people. We let the kids participate and dance in the circle, that’s an important thing for the kids because they can actually experience it,” said Fields.

Morning Star performer, Bethany Moore, explained what being a part of this program meant to her. “I can’t describe the feeling you get when you share your culture with others. You are sharing and teaching at the same time. It’s a good feeling to know you are sharing something other people may not know a lot about.”

In Native American culture, dances have many meanings to those that perform them in front of their peers. “A long time ago young men would receive recognition in the community through their hunting and warrior skills. It is not like that anymore. Culturally, dancing has filled that space and now a lot of our young people gain recognition through their dancing skills. It’s more than a dance. It’s a tradition and

part of what keeps the culture alive,” Fields said.

After the program, Brian Yellow John talked about the significance of the ‘hoop dance’ he performed. “This shows the audience different cultures of our people. There is not just one type of dance; there are different types of dance. The hoop dance is something that everyone likes to see. It is a symbol for the trials of life. In life the hoop represents trails and struggles. You work with one trial, you go through it, and you go to the next trial, and you learn from it. You learn from your trials and tribulations,” he said.

“It’s really wonderful that the children are able to see these kinds of things and get to know more about the American heritage,” said Mertice Ireland, gifted education specialist for Vilseck Elementary School.

“We have a community of diversity and we need to understand and appreciate the difference of people’s diversity as well as understand the differences of people’s diversity,” said Sgt. 1st Class David Ward, EO advisor.

“Our only regret here at the school was we were not in session today, but we still had a good turn out. It was a magnificent and meaningful performance,” said Bob Allen, Vilseck Elementary Principal.



The Hoop dance symbolizes the circle, and each dancer has their own personal message. The circle represents life, strength and unity.



The Buck Skin dances were performed when warriors returned from the hunt. The dance is also used to honor veterans wherever they are, or wherever they served.



Women performed the Fancy Shawl dance in which a female dancer lightly touches the ground like a butterfly.



The Fancy dance is a popular dance performed for friends and families at different get-togethers.

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MOVIES BEGIN 7 P.M. AND MATINEES 1 P.M.

(09662-83-1790)

VILSECK

21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Red Eye (PG-13)
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
26 Nov	Sat	Just Like Heaven (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	Chicken Little (G) Matinee
27 Nov	Sun	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Roll Bounce (PG-13)
1 Dec	Thur	The Weather Man (R) Premiere
2 Dec	Fri	Flightplan (PG-13)
3 Dec	Sat	The Man (PG-13)
4 Dec	Sun	Harry Potter/The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Matinee
4 Dec	Sun	Harry Potter/The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
5 Dec	Mon	Closed
6 Dec	Tue	Closed
7 Dec	Wed	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) F&F Night
8 Dec	Thur	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
9 Dec	Fri	Walk the Line (PG-13) Premiere
10 Dec	Sat	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
11 Dec	Sun	Serenity (PG-13)
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed

(09472-83-1790)

HOHENFELS

21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Must Love Dogs (PG-13)
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Transporter 2 (PG-13)
26 Nov	Sat	Roll Bounce (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	March of the Penguins (G) Matinee
27 Nov	Sun	The Man (PG-13)
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
1 Dec	Thur	Red Eye (PG-13)
2 Dec	Fri	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
3 Dec	Sat	Transporter 2 (PG-13)
4 Dec	Sun	Chicken Little (G) Matinee
4 Dec	Sun	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)
5 Dec	Mon	Closed
6 Dec	Tue	Closed
7 Dec	Wed	Harry Potter/The Goblet of Fire (PG-13)F&F Night
8 Dec	Thur	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
9 Dec	Fri	Yours, Mine & Ours (PG) Premiere
10 Dec	Sat	Closed for.....USO Show
11 Dec	Sun	Harry Potter/The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed

(09641-83-1790)

GRAFENWOEHR

21 Nov	Mon	Closed
22 Nov	Tue	Closed
23 Nov	Wed	Closed
24 Nov	Thur	Closed....Happy Thanksgivings
25 Nov	Fri	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
26 Nov	Sat	The Man (PG-13)
27 Nov	Sun	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
28 Nov	Mon	Closed
29 Nov	Tue	Closed
30 Nov	Wed	Closed
1 Dec	Thur	Get Rich or Die Tryn' (R) Premiere
2 Dec	Fri	Harry Potter/The Goblet of Fire (PG-13) Premiere
3 Dec	Sat	Walk the Line (PG) Premiere
4 Dec	Sun	The Exorcism of Emily Rose (PG-13)
5 Dec	Mon	Closed
6 Dec	Tue	Closed
7 Dec	Wed	Closed
8 Dec	Thur	Tim Burton's Corpse Bride (PG)
9 Dec	Fri	An Unfinished Life (PG-13)
10 Dec	Sat	Cry Wolf (PG-13)
11 Dec	Sun	The Greatest Game Ever Played (PG) Matinee
11 Dec	Sun	Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag (G)
12 Dec	Mon	Closed
13 Dec	Tue	Closed



Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
Rated PG-13 (sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images)
Running Time: 150min.
Stars: Daniel Radcliff, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint
Synopsis:
In his fourth year at Hogwarts, Harry faces his greatest challenges and dangers yet. When he is selected under mysterious circumstances as a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, Harry must compete against the best young wizards from schools all over Europe. But as he prepares, signs begin to point to the return of Lord Voldemort.



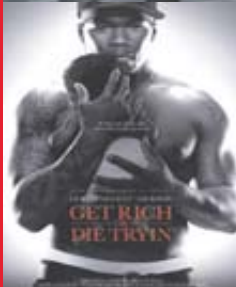
Chicken Little
Rated G (general audiences)
Running Time: 81min.
Stars: Don Knotts, Zack Braff
Synopsis:
The movie picks up where the classic fable ends, namely after he mistakes a falling acorn for a piece of the sky.



Walk the Line
Rated PG-13 (some language, thematic material and depiction of drug dependency)
Running Time: 135min.
Stars: Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon
Synopsis:
Walk the line explores the early years of the music legend.As his music changed the world, the woman who became the love of his life rocked Cash's own world: June Carter.



Roll Bounce
Rated PG-13 (language and some crude humor)
Running Time: 107min.
Stars: Bow Wow, Chi McBride
Synopsis:
In the late '70s when roller-skating was a way of life, X and his pals ruled supreme. But when the doors of their local skating rink close, it marks the end of an era and the beginning of another.



Transporter 2
Rated PG-13 (violent action, sexual content, partial nudity and brief language)
Running Time: 98min.
Stars: Jason Statham, Alessandro Gassman, Amber Valletta
Synopsis:
Martin makes a living driving for a wealthy family, but when the boys are abducted, Martin must use all his skills to bring them to safety and discover the kidnapper's master plan.



Yours, Mine & Ours
Rated PG (mild crude humor)
Running Time: 90min.
Stars: Dennis Quaid, Rene Russo, Linda Hunt, Rip Tom and James Lil"JJ" Lewis
Synopsis:
Frank with eight kids. Helen with 10. When they get married and decide to pack the entire clan under one roof, the only thing that will get the kids together is the job of breaking their parents apart.



The Exorcism Of Emily Rose
Rated PG-13 (thematic material, including intense/frightening sequences and disturbing images)
Running Time: 114min.
Stars: Jennifer Carpenter, Tom Wilkinson and Laura Linney
Synopsis:
'The Exorcism of Emily Rose' chronicles the haunting trial of the priest accused of negligence resulting in the death of the young girl believed to be possessed and the lawyer who takes on the task of defending him.



The Greatest Game Ever Played
Rated PG (some brief mild language)
Running Time: 115min.
Stars: Even Stevens, Shia LaBeouf
Synopsis:
A golf drama based on the true story of the 1913 US Open, where 20-year-old Francis Ouimet defeated reigning champion Harry Vardon.



Tim Burton's Corpse Bride
Rated PG (some scary images and action, and brief mild language)
Running Time: 76min.
Stars: Johnny Depp, Bonham Carter and Emily Watson
Synopsis:
Follows the story of Victor, a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride, while his real bride, Victoria, waits bereft in the land of the living. Victor learns that there is nothing in this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love.



Just Like Heaven
Rated PG-13 (some sexual content)
Running Time: 85min.
Stars: Reese Witherspoon, Mark Ruffalo
Synopsis:
When David sublet his quaint San Francisco apartment, the last thing he expected -- or wanted -- was a roommate. Elizabeth suddenly shows up, adamantly insisting the apartment is hers

Cry Wolf
Rated PG-13 (violence, terror, disturbing images, language, sexuality, drug reference)
Running Time: 90min.
Stars: Julian Morris, Jon Bon Jovi
Synopsis:
Owen Matthews is sent to prestigious Westlake Prep - where a young woman has recently been found murdered in the dark woods near the boarding school's campus.

Get Rich or Die Tryin'
Rated R (violence, language, sexuality and a drug reference)
Running Time: 134min.
Stars: Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson
Synopsis:
An orphaned street kid makes his mark in the drug trade, but dares to leave the violence of his former life behind to pursue a promising career in the music business as a rapper.

Red Eye
Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violence, and language)
Running Time: 85min.
Stars: Rachel Mcadams, Cillian Murphy
Synopsis:
Lisa Reisert hates to fly, but the terror that awaits her on the night flight to Miami has nothing to do with a fear of flying.

The Weather Man
Rated R (strong language and sexual content)
Running Time: 102min.
Stars: Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine
Synopsis:
Popular Chicago weatherman, Dave Spirtz, has a shot at the big time when a national morning television show calls him for an audition.

An Unfinished Life
Rated PG-13 (some violence, including domestic abuse, and language)
Running Time: 108min.
Stars: Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman, and Jennifer Lopez
Synopsis:
A down on her luck woman, desperate to provide care for her daughter, moves in with her father-in-law from whom she is estranged. Through time, they learn to forgive each other and heal old wounds.

Fighter Pilot: Operation Red Flag
Rated G (General Audiences)
Running Time: 40min.
Stars: Captain John Stratton, Major Robert Novotny and Major Sam Morgan
Synopsis:
Red Flag is the final training for pilots and their aircrews before being sent into actual combat. Follow pilot, John Stratton, as he makes his way through this extraordinary event held in the desert of Nevada.

Flightplan
Rated PG-13 (violence, intensity)
Running Time: 93min.
Stars: Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard and Sean Bean
Synopsis:
In this modern retelling of a classic urban legend, a mother finds herself at odds with a unremitting flight crew and her own sanity when her daughter vanishes in the middle of a flight, with only a few clues left behind. She must now challenge the boundaries of her will and her mind in her desperate search.

Serenity
Rated PG-13 (sequences of intense violence and action, and some sexual references)
Running Time: 119min.
Stars: Nathan Fillion and Sean Maher
Synopsis:
Captain Malcom Reynolds finds himself running from a skilled Alliance operative, who wants River Tam, and who will stop at nothing to get her.

The Man
Rated PG-13 (some violence, language and some crude humor)
Running Time: 84min.
Stars: Samuel L. Jackson, Eugene Levy
Synopsis:
Special agent Derrick Vann is a man out to get the man who killed his partner but a case of mistaken identity leads him to Andy Fidler.

March Of The Penguins
Rated G (General Audiences)
Running Time: 80min.
Stars: Morgan Freeman
Synopsis:
Penguins overcome daunting obstacles in order to return to their breeding grounds for mating season. This tells the story of 1 year in the life of a flock. Focusing on one couple in particular.

Must Love Dogs
Rated PG-13 (sexual content)
Running Time: 88min.
Stars: Diane Lane, Elizabeth Perkins, Alli Hillis, John Cusack, Christopher Plummer
Synopsis:
Tells the story of Sarah Nolan, a newly divorced woman cautiously rediscovering romance with the enthusiastic but often misguided help of her well-meaning family.

THEATERS